

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Joint Committee Meeting: Agriculture & Health Policy

Date: February 14, 2006

Location: Capital Building, Lansing

To: Chairman Nitz & Members of the Joint Committee

Michigan State University Extension is working under the leadership of Dr. Mick Fulton of the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine and with other Extension specialists with the MSU Department of Animal Science to address avian influenza issues in Michigan. The following are efforts that are either planned or underway, and which complement other multi-agency partnership efforts:

Efforts in Progress by MSU/MSUE:

1. Development of an avian influenza section in the MSUE Emergency Management website: www.msue.msu.edu/emergency
2. Develop a biosecurity Extension bulletin for the "Agricultural Security Series" on small poultry flock diseases, including avian influenza. (A sister publication in this Series is attached as an example.)
3. Development of a one-page, MSUE countertop fact sheet for the general public on avian influenza.
4. Planning process underway to hold 6-10 educational meetings around the state for small flock producers.
5. Session planned at the 4-H Poultry Project Leaders workshop in April 2006, which will include topics on avian influenza.



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Other Efforts Under Consideration by MSU/MSUE:

1. Develop informational press releases on avian influenza by MSU & MSUE to be sent to over 175 media editors around the state.
2. Explore possibilities for an MSU/MSUE poster-sized sign that can be displayed at feed stores and other locations where small flock poultry feed or chicks are sold.

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Michigan State University Extension
programs and materials are open to all
without regard to race, color, national
origin, gender, religion, age, disability,
political beliefs, sexual orientation,
marital status, or family status

Michigan State University,
U.S. Department of Agriculture and
counties cooperating.

MSU is an affirmative-action,
equal-opportunity institution.



Biosecurity for Livestock and Poultry Exhibitions

Dan Grooms, D.V.M., Michigan State University, College of Veterinary Medicine

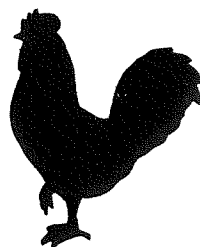
Ken Geuns, Michigan State University, Department of Animal Science

Livestock exhibitions are an important part of agriculture in the United States. They provide an opportunity for people to participate in an activity focused on agriculture and the livestock industry. Exhibitions are also an important marketing tool for seedstock producers, providing an opportunity to showcase their animals and to evaluate breeding programs by directly comparing their animals with others. Finally, they provide a way to positively promote agriculture to the general public. Though agricultural exhibitions serve an important function, they also represent a potential threat to the health of individual animals, the herds from which they originate and the industry they represent. In addition, the risk of disease transmission from animals to humans during livestock exhibitions must be considered.



Managers of animal exhibitions should develop plans to reduce the risk of animal-to-animal and animal-to-human disease transmission. To protect the health of all exhibited animals and exhibit attendees, fair management should:

- Provide exhibitors with written health requirements in advance of the animal exhibition.



- Request that exhibitors not bring unthrifty animals, even if they are part of an organized project.
- Establish health requirements that meet or exceed all local, state and national animal exhibition requirements.
- Ensure that a veterinarian will be on hand to inspect all arriving animals for symptoms of ill health.
- Ensure that a veterinarian regularly inspects animals and is available to examine livestock that become ill during the exhibition.
- Provide clean and properly disinfected animal housing facilities.
- Provide housing with adequate space and proper ventilation.
- Provide access to clean water.
- Provide manure and waste bedding storage areas remote from animal housing and public traffic areas.
- Provide signs requesting that people who have been in foreign countries in the past 7 days not enter livestock barns.
- Provide signs asking people to wash or disinfect their hands after handling or petting animals.
- Provide hand-washing stations convenient to animal exhibition areas. Signs should be present to make these areas obvious, along with a suggestion to wash hands after petting animals.